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## A CHECKLIST OF THE SNAKES OF KENYA

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### ABSTRACT

Loveridge (1957) lists 161 species and subspecies of snake from East Africa. Eighty-nine of these belonging to some 41 genera were recorded from Kenya. The new list contains some 106 forms of 46 genera.

Three full species have been deleted from Loveridge's original checklist. *Typhlops b. blanfordii* has been synonymised with *Typhlops l. lineolatus*, *Typhlops kaimosae* has been synonymised with *Typhlops angolensis* (Roux-Esteve 1974) and *Coluber citernii* has been synonymised with *Meizodon semiornatus* (Lanza 1963). Of the 20 forms added to the list, 12 are forms collected for the first time in Kenya but occurring outside its political boundaries and one, *Atheris desaixi* is a new species, the holotype and paratypes being collected within Kenya. There has also been a large number of changes amongst the 89 original species as a result of revisionary systematic studies. This accounts for the other additions to the list.

### INTRODUCTION

The most recent checklist dealing with the snakes of Kenya is Loveridge (1957). Since that date there has been a significant number of developments in the Kenyan herpetological field.

This paper intends to update the nomenclature in the part of the checklist that concerns the snakes of Kenya and to extend the list to include all the species now known to occur within the political boundaries of Kenya. It also provides the range of each species within Kenya with specific locality records.

The ranges of the snakes listed here are those known at present. Ranges are constantly subject to extension; a species not listed as occurring in a certain area does not mean that it does not exist there but that it is not recorded. However, most species of snake show well-defined habitat preferences; records extending their range outside these areas should be treated with caution.

The given range in all cases refers to the distribution of that species within the boundaries of Kenya. The preference of various species for certain types of vegetation and altitude in all ranges are those of Kenya populations and may not apply throughout the entire range of the snake if it occurs outside Kenya.

The locality records given here are based on my own field work and, for the most part, on specimens in the following museum collections:

Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (M.C.Z.)  
California Academy of Sciences (C.A.S.)  
British Museum (Natural History) (B.M.)  
National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya (N.M.K.)

Species unrecorded in Kenya prior to the date of Loveridge's (1957) checklist are indicated by an asterisk\*. The initials in parentheses following the species name refer to the museums above and indicate that the museum collection has examples of that species from the listed Kenyan locality.

## ANNOTATED CHECKLIST

Class: REPTILIA  
Order: SQUAMATA  
Suborder: Serpentes

## Family: Typhlopidae

Genus *Typhlops* Daudin*Typhlops angolensis* (Bocage) Golden Blind-snake

Range: only one example recorded from Kaimosi, Kakamega forest. Elsewhere in Africa a savannah species.

*Typhlops braminus* (Daudin) Braminy or Flower-pot Snake

Range: coastal strip.

Recorded from: Mombasa.

*Typhlops cuneirostris* (Peters)\* (C.A.S.)

Range: semi-desert bush in the north-east corner of Kenya.

Recorded from: El Wak, Mandera, Wajir.

*Typhlops lineolatus lineolatus* Jan Lineolate Blind-snake

Range: widespread in grassland and savannah country in west, central and eastern Kenya; usually above altitudes of 1000 m. Also known from Moyale and probably occurs on Marsabit mountain.

Recorded from: Emali, Juja, Kakamega, Kisumu, Kitale, Kitui, Mara Game Reserve, Moyale, Nairobi, Ruaraka.

*Typhlops punctatus punctatus* (Leach) Spotted Blind-snake

Range: forest around the south and eastern base of Mt Kenya, Kakamega and the southern Mt Elgon forests.

Recorded from: Chogoria, Chuka, Mt Elgon, Yala River.

Genus *Rhinotyphlops* Fitzinger*Rhinotyphlops lumbriciformis* (Peters) Wormlike Blind-snake

Range: coastal forest.

Recorded from: Changamwe, Malindi, Mkonumbi, Mtwapa, Sokoke Forest.

*Rhinotyphlops pallidus* (Cope) Zanzibar Blind-snake

Range: coastal savannah.

Recorded from: Mombasa, Ngatana, Vipingo.

*Rhinotyphlops schlegelii dinga* (Peters)

Range: coastal forest and savannah.

Recorded from: Gongoni, Mkonumbi, Mombasa, Ngatana, Peccatoni, Sokoke Forest, Wange, Witu.

*Rhinotyphlops unitaeniatus* Peters Stripe-backed or Yellow-backed Blind-snake

Range: most of lowland south-eastern Kenya, south and east from the Meru Game Reserve through Garissa and Tsavo to the coast.

Recorded from: Garissa, Garsen, Kibwezi, Kinna, Lali Hills, Makueni, Malindi, Meru Game Reserves, Mombasa, Saka, Shimba Hills, Taita Hills, Taru, Tsavo East, Voi.

## Family: Leptotyphlopidae

Genus *Leptotyphlops* Fitzinger*Leptotyphlops boulengeri* (Boettger) Manda Flesh-pink Worm-snake

Range: known only from two of the major islands of the Lamu archipelago.

Recorded from: Lamu, Manda.

*Leptotyphlops conjunctus conjunctus* (Jan) Jans All-black Worm-snake, Common Worm-snake, Bootlace, Thread Snake

Range: widespread over most of west, central, east and southern Kenya, including the coast. Absent from the dry north.

Recorded from: Amboseli Game Reserve, Jilore Forest, Kilaguni-Tsavo, Kisumu, Makindu, Meru, Mombasa, Muranga, Nairobi, Oloitokitok, Songhor.

*Leptotyphlops emini emini* (Boulenger) Emin's All-black Worm-snake

Range: known from two low-lying areas in western Kenya, the Lake Victoria shore around the Winam Gulf; the Lake Baringo area and the Rift Valley wall west of there. The two populations may prove to be connected via the southern Kerio Valley.

Recorded from: Baringo, Kabarnet, Kisumu, Lambwe Valley.

*Leptotyphlops fiechteri* (Scortecci) White-bellied Worm-snake

Range: the western shore of Lake Turkana.

Recorded from: Lokwa Kangole.

*Leptotyphlops longicaudus* (Peters) Long-tailed Flesh-pink Worm-snake

Range: north coastal plain, from Mombasa north to the Tana delta.

Recorded from: Mombasa, Ngatana, Peccatoni, Vipingo.

**Family: Boidae**  
**Subfamily: Pythoninae**

*Genus Python* Daudin*Python sebae* (Gmelin) Common African Python, Rock Python

Range: widespread throughout Kenya, from sea-level to altitudes of 2200 m, always in the vicinity of natural water sources.

Recorded from: Athi River, Lake Baringo, Chuka, Chiokarige, Embu, Garissa, Kerio Valley, Kijabe, Kilifi, Kitale, Makindu, Malindi, Mara Game Reserve, Meru Game Reserve, Mombasa, Muranga, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nakuru, Ngong, Nyambeni Hills, Shimoni, Tsavo, Voi, Winam Gulf.

**Subfamily: Boinae**

*Genus Eryx* Daudin*Eryx colubrinus loveridgei* Stull Kenya Sand-boas

Range: widely distributed in east and northern Kenya in scrubland, steppe and desert areas below 1000 m, but not recorded from the coastal plain. West of Voi, it is known from the Amboseli area and the Magadi area of the southern Rift Valley.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Lake Baringo, Chiokarige, Eliye Springs, Ferguson's Gulf, Garissa, Isiolo, Kakuma, Lodwar, Lokori, Magadi, Malka Murri, Mandera, Manyani, Meru Game Reserve, Mito Andei, Mwingi, Oloitokitok, Olgorgesailie, Samburu Game Reserve, Sultan Hamud, Taveta, Voi, Wajir.

**Family: Colubridae**  
**Subfamily: Natricinae**

*Genus Natriciteres* Loveridge*Natriciteres olivacea olivacea* (Peters) Olive Marsh-snake

Range: occurs in two widely separated areas. (see *Causus resimus* and *Meizodon coronatus* for comparison). In western Kenya, it occurs from Lake Baringo westward over the Elgeyo Escarpment, through Nandi and Trans-Nzoia districts to Mt Elgon, Kakamega and the lakeshore around the Winam Gulf. A population also occurs on the Tana River delta in the Garsen-Witu area.

Recorded from: Baringo, Cherangani Hills, Eldoret, Kaimosi, Kakamega, Kisumu, Mkonumbi, Nandi Hills, Ngatana, Yala River.

**Subfamily: Colubrinae**

*Genus Boaedon* Dumeril and Bibron*Boaedon fuliginosus fuliginosus* (Boie) Common House-snake, Brown House-snake

Range: common and widespread throughout south, east, central and western Kenya and recorded from every major town. In the north it is apparently absent from the true desert areas east of Lake Turkana and the sub-desert steppe of Wajir, Marsabit and Turkana districts, but it has been recorded from Buna and Moyale.

*Genus Lycophidion* Fitzinger*Lycophidion ornatum* Parker Ornate Wolf-snake, Forest Wolf-snake

Range: high woodland of west and central Kenya, including the forests of east and southern Mt Kenya, the Nyambeni Range and the Kakamega and southern Mt. Elgon forests up to altitudes of 2000 m.

Recorded from: Chuka, Mt Elgon, Kakamega, Nyambeni Hills.



*Lycophidion depressirostre* Laurent

Range: east from Kajiado District through Tsavo and the Tana River District to the coast and as far north as the most northerly bend of the Tana River. Also known from Moyale on the northern border but not yet recorded from the intervening country.

Recorded from: Jadini, Kibwezi, Kilibasi, Kitui, Lamu, Machakos, Malindi, Mt Mbololo, Moyale, Mtito Andei, Sankuri, Shaffa Dika, Voi.

*Lycophidion capense jacksonii* Boulenger      Jackson's Wolf-snake

Range: grassland, savannah and lightly wooded areas of central Kenya, from the Kapiti plains north through Nairobi, Kiambu and Muranga districts to Meru, Embu and Laikipia districts and the Nyambeni Range. West from Nairobi, it occurs across the high central Rift Valley to Eldoret and the Trans-Nzoia.

Recorded from: Eldama Ravine, Embu, Kijabe, Maima Springs, Meru, Muranga, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nyambeni Hills, Ruiru, Rumuruti, Sergoit, Thika, Wambugu.

*Lycophidion capense loveridgei* Laurent      Coastal Wolf-snake

Range: forest and savannah of the coastal strip

Recorded from: Changamwe, Jilore Forest, Kilifi, Likoni, Malindi, Mkonumbi, Mombasa, Ngatana.

Genus *Hormonotus* Hallowell*Hormonotus modestus* (Dumeril and Bibron)      \*(N.M.K.) Yellow Forest-snake

Range: a rain-forest snake, with its centre of distribution in Zaïre, reaching the easternmost limits of its range in the Kakamega-Bungoma area of western Kenya.

Recorded from: Khayega, Tororo-Broderick Falls road.

Genus *Mehelya* Csiki*Mehelya capensis savognani* (Mocquard)      North-western File Snake, Chantlers File Snake

Range: widely distributed through west, central and eastern Kenya, in areas of savannah and woodland up to altitudes of 2000 m. Also occurs along the coastal plain but is everywhere uncommon. It seems to be associated with areas of over 600 mm annual rainfall.

Recorded from: Kilifi, Lamu, Makueni, Malindi, Manda, Meru, Muranga, Nyambeni Hills, Sotik, Wange.

*Mehelya nyassae* (Gunther)      Black File Snake

Range: dry areas of eastern Kenya from Garissa (most northerly record) south through Tsavo to Tanzania. Known from the upper Tana delta but not the coast although it probably occurs there.

Recorded from: Garissa, Voi, Wema.

Genus *Coluber* Linnaeus*Coluber florulentus smithi* (Boulenger)      Southern Flowered Snake, Desert Racer, Smith's Racer

Range: a snake of the low dry country. From the Mackinnon Road-Voi area, it ranges north-west along the border, through Tsavo West, Amboseli and the southern Kajiado District to the southern sector of the Rift Valley as far north as Olgosai. North from Voi, it is found through Tsavo East, eastern Kitui, Tana River and Garissa districts to Isiolo, Marsabit, Baringo, Turkana and Lake Turkana areas. It does not occur on Marsabit mountain or the coastal strip and has not been recorded from Wajir or Mandera districts, though it may occur there.

Recorded from: Amboseli Game Reserve, Central Island (Lake Turkana), Kabluk, Kakuma, Kerio Valley, Lodwar, Lokitaung, Lokori, Mackinnon Road, Malka Murri, Manyani, Mtito Andei, Mwingi, Ololokwe Mountain, Sololo, Voi.

*Coluber keniensis* Parker      Lake Baringo Snake

Range: known only from the holotype collected at Lake Baringo.

Genus *Meizodon* Fischer*Meizodon semiornatus* Peters      Southern Semi-ornate Snake, Barred Bush-snake

Range: widespread throughout Kenya up to altitudes of 2500 m, in all vegetation types, but uncommon everywhere with the exception of the coastal strip south of Malindi where it is fairly common.

Recorded from: Athi River, Baringo, Diani, Kahawa, Kibwezi, Kijabe, Lodwar, Malindi, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nyeri, Thika, Tiwi, Lake Turkana, Vipingo, Voi.

*Meizodon coronatus* (Schlegel)      Crowned Snake

Range: Tana River delta. The occurrence in that area of this primarily West African species is, to quote Loveridge (1942), 'in keeping with other elements of West African fauna surviving along the Tana close to the Indian Ocean'.

Recorded from: Kau, Ngatana.

Genus *Philothamnus* Smith

*Philothamnus heterodermus carinatus* (Andersson) Thirteen-scaled Green Snake, Strange-scaled Green Snake, Barred Green Snake

Range: a West African species, reaching the easternmost limits of its range in the Kakamega forest, western Kenya.

Recorded from: Kaimosi, Yala River.

*Philothamnus irregularis battersbyi* Loveridge Common Green Snake, Green Water-snake, Green Bushsnake, Grass Snake

Range: widespread and common throughout west, central and southern Kenya, always in the vicinity of natural water sources. Not recorded from Turkana, Wajir or Mandera districts. Occurs on Marsabit mountain but not in the surrounding dry country and rare at the coast. This is the snake commonly known in the Nairobi area as a 'Grass Snake'.

Recorded from: Athi River, Eldama Ravine, Eldoret, Embu, Isiolo, Kakamega, Kijabe, Kisumu, Kitale, Konza, Makuyu, Marsabit, Meru, Mkonumbi, Mtito Andei, Muranga, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nakuru, Nyahururu, Thika, Tumutumu, Witu.

*Philothamnus heterolepidotus* (Gunther) Slender Green Snake

Range: the upper Yala River. May occur in the hills along the north-west border as it is recorded from the southern Sudan.

Recorded from: Yala River.

*Philothamnus semivariatus semivariatus* (Smith) Spotted Bush-snake, Spotted Wood-snake

Range: common along the entire coastal plain and the Galana and Tana rivers. Elsewhere in Kenya it occurs sporadically across the north and east in areas where there is permanent water. It is also known from the Taita, Amboseli and Mara areas and the lakeshore around the Winam Gulf. Although not as water loving as *P. i. battersbyi*, it is usually found close to water sources. It prefers low country and is rarely found above 1300 m altitude.

Recorded from: Amboseli Game Reserve, Garissa, Garsen, Jilore Forest, Gede, Kerio Valley, Kibwezi, Kipini, Lamu, Malindi, Malka Murri, Mandera, Mara Game Reserve, Mt Mbololo, Mombasa, Ramu, Shimoni, Songhor, Wajir Bor, Witu, Yala River.

Genus *Hapsidophrys* Fischer

*Hapsidophrys lineata* Fischer Black-lined Green Snake

Range: a West African species reaching the easternmost limits of its range in the Kakamega forest.

Recorded from: Kaimosi, Khayega.

Genus *Thrasops* Hallowell

*Thrasops jacksonii jacksonii* Gunther Western Black Tree-snake, Jackson's Tree-snake

Range: primary forest of western Kenya, including the south-western Mau, Kakamega and Mt Elgon forests.

Recorded from: Mt Elgon, Khayega, Kericho, Yala River.

*Thrasops jacksonii schmidtii* Loveridge Eastern Black Tree-snake, Schmidt's Tree-snake

Range: this eastern subspecies of *T. j. jacksonii* is known from the Nyambeni Hills forest, the forest on the south and eastern slopes of Mt Kenya and the forest remnants to the north and south-west of Nairobi. It probably occurs in the Kikuyu escarpment forest on the east wall of the Rift Valley but has not yet been recorded there.

Recorded from: Embu (Castle Forest Station), Meru, Nairobi, Nyambeni Hills.

*Thrasops aethiopissa elgonensis* (Loveridge) Mt Elgon Tree-snake, Large-eyed Green Tree-snake

Range: Kakamega and the southern Mt Elgon forests, western Kenya.

Recorded from: Mt Elgon forests, Kakamega Forest, Yala River.

Genus *Scaphiophis* Peters

*Scaphiophis albopunctatus albopunctatus* Peters Hook-nosed Snake, Gray Beaked-snake, Sharp-nosed Snake

Range: east from Amboseli to the coast, north and east through Tsavo, eastern Kitui and Machakos districts to the northern Tana River. Also occurs in the Kerio Valley area and the two populations may be connected through Samburu-Isiolo area, though as yet unrecorded there. Not so far recorded from Marsabit, Turkana districts, or North-eastern Province. Shows a preference for woodland and savannah country below 1000 m altitude.

Recorded from: Amboseli Game Reserve, Gede, Kerio Valley, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Malindi, Mombasa, Mtito Andei, Ol Doinyo Sabuk, Voi

Genus *Prosymna* Gray

*Prosymna ambigua stuhlmanni* (Pfeffer) East African Shovel-snout, Shovel-snouted Snake

Range: a snake of the low country. It ranges east from Magadi to Amboseli, Tsavo and the coast, north through Tsavo, eastern Kitui, Tana River District to the Tharaka Plain, thence around the curve of woodland steppe north of Mt Kenya to Samburu, the Mathews Range, and into the northern sector of the Rift Valley and the Kerio Valley. From there it spreads north along the steppe country on the western border from Kapenguria, where it meets with the subspecies *P.a. bocagii* in the vicinity of Karamoja, Uganda.

Recorded from: Amboseli Game Reserve, Baringo, Chiokarige, Chyulu Hills, Garissa, Kabarnet, Kakuma, Kiambu, Magadi, Mkonumbi, Tharaka, Voi, Witu.

Genus *Pseudaspis* Fitzinger

*Pseudaspis cana* (Linnaeus) Mole Snake

Range: along the Rift Valley floor, from Mt Suswa north to Naivasha and Nakuru, then west up the western wall via Njoro and out of the Rift to Eldoret (most northerly record), but not any further west. An apparently isolated population occurs in the Naro Moru-Nanyuki area and another in the Kitui area. These populations do not appear to be connected.

Recorded from: Eldoret, Elmenteita, Gilgil, Kitui, Naivasha, Nakuru, Nanyuki, Naro Moru, Njoro, Subukia.

Genus *Duberria* Fitzinger

*Duberria lutrix abyssinica* (Boulenger) Abyssinian Slug-eater

Range: high grasslands of west and central Kenya, including the Nairobi area, the high central Rift Valley, the Mt Kenya massif, the Aberdares and Kinangop, the Mara area and the northern foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro. Rarely found below altitudes of 1500 m.

Recorded from: Aberdares, Kabarnet, Kijabe, Kinangop Plateau, Limuru, Mara Game Reserve, Meru, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nakuru, Ngobit, Nyeri, Ol Kalou, Oloitokitok, Timau.

Genus *Grayia* Gunther

*Grayia smythii* (Leach) Smyth's Water-snake

Range: One Kenya locality, Mjanji, the border point between Kenya and Uganda on the northern shore of Lake Victoria. May occur further around the lakeshore to the east but as yet unrecorded. A mainly aquatic species.

*Grayia tholloni* Mocquard Tholloni's Water-snake, Nandi Water-snake

Range: streams and rivers of western Kenya and the Lake Victoria shore. Not recorded any further east than Songhor. Like *G. smythii*, an aquatic species.

Recorded from: Kisumu, Songhor, Yala River.

## Subfamily: Boiginae

Genus *Boiga* Fitzinger

*Boiga blandingii* (Hallowell) \*(N.M.K.) Blanding's Tree-snake, Blanding's Boiga

Range: a West African forest species, reaching the easternmost limits of its range in the Kakamega Forest, western Kenya.

Recorded from: Kakamega, Serem.

*Boiga pulverulenta* (Fischer) \*(N.M.K.) Powdered Tree-snake

Range: as for *B. blandingii*

Recorded from: Kakamega, Serem.

Genus *Telescopus* Wagler

*Telescopus dhara somalicus* (Parker) Southern Large-eyed Snake

Range: arid areas of north and north-eastern Kenya and south from Garissa district along the eastern bank of the Tana River to the delta, where the species has crossed the river and penetrated as far south as Malindi. Usually found in areas below 500 m altitude.

Recorded from: Buna, Ferguson's Gulf, Garissa, Kakuma, Laisamis, Longarippe, Malindi, Mandera, Ngatana, Wajir, Wajir Bor.

*Telescopus semiannulatus semiannulatus* Smith Tiger Snake (often erroneously called 'Garter Snake' along the coast)

Range: common along the entire coastal strip, extending inland up the Tana River to Kindaruma and the eastern foothills of Mt Kenya and along the Galana River at least as far as the Lali Hills.

Recorded from: Bamburi, Chuka, Jadini, Kilifi, Kima, Kindaruma, Lali Hills, Malindi, Mombasa, Mtwapa, Shimoni, Vipingo.



Genus *Crotaphopeltis* Fitzinger

*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia* (Laurenti) White-lip, White-lipped Snake, Herald Snake

Range: common and widespread through west, central, east and southern Kenya and the coast in the vicinity of water and up to altitudes of 2000 m. Apparently absent from the dry north (with the exception of Marsabit mountain) and from the Magadi area in the southern Rift Valley.

Recorded from: Athi River, Eldoret, Embu, Garissa, Ijara, Isiolo, Kerio Valley, Kibwezi, Kilifi, Kisumu, Kitale, Lambwe Valley, Malindi, Mara Game Reserve, Marsabit, Meru Game Reserve, Mombasa, Mtwapa, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nakuru, Ngong, Nyambeni Hills, Ruiru, Rumuruti, Thika, Witu.

*Crotaphopeltis degeni* (Boulenger) \*(N.M.K., C.A.S., B.M.) Degen's Water-snake.

Range: western Kenya, south-west from the Eldoret area through Nandi to the lake shore. Possibly spreads south to the Mara, but at present Kisumu is the most southerly record.

Recorded from: Eldoret, Kisumu, Moiben, Songhor.

Genus *Chamaetortus* Gunther

*Chamaetortus aulicus aulicus* Gunther Marbled Tree-snake, Cross-barred Tree-snake

Range: probably occurs along the length of the coast, although presently only known from between Mombasa and the Tana delta. Also occurs along the Galana-Athi River as far east as Kibwezi.

Recorded from: Kibwezi, Kikambala, Lali Hills, Malindi, Ngatana, Watamu, Witu.

Genus *Dispholidus* Duvernoy

*Dispholidus typus* (Smith) Boomslang

Range: widespread throughout Kenya in woodland, savannah and scrubland areas, up to altitudes of 2000 m, but, oddly, unrecorded from the Nairobi area. Generally found in areas with enough vegetation to enable it to travel distances without having to descend to the ground.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Baringo, Buna, Chiokarige, Chuka, Eldama Ravine, Eldoret, Embu, Garissa, Gede, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kapenguria, Kedong, Kerio Valley, Kilifi, Kisumu, Kitale, Laisamis, Lambwe Valley, Lokichoggio, Magadi, Malindi, Malka Murri, Mara Game Reserve, Mombasa, Mtito Andei, Nandi Hills, Naro Moru, Nyambeni Hills, Samburu Game Reserve, Shimba Hills, Shimoni, Taita Hills, Tiwi, Ulu, Voi, Wajir, Witu, Wundanyi.

Genus *Thelotornis* Smith

*Thelotornis kirtlandii kirtlandii* (Hallowell) Vine Snake, Twig Snake, Bird Snake

Range: forest and savannah of the coastal plain, and the Taita Hills.

Recorded from: Gede, Kilifi, Malindi, Mt Mbololo, Mtwapa, Shimba Hills, Sokoke Forest, Taita Hills.

Genus *Hemirhagerrhis* Boettger

*Hemirhagerrhis kelleri* Boettger Striped Bark Snake, Stripe-bellied Snake

Range: low country of eastern Kenya, in areas below 1000 m altitude, including the coastal strip. Not recorded west of the Rift Valley, and only a single record from the Rift Valley floor, from Olorgesailie in the southern sector.

Recorded from: Laisamis, Lamu, Manyani, Mkonumbi, Mkowe, Mombasa, Olorgesailie, Tarbaj, Voi, Yatta Plateau.

*Hemirhagerrhis nototaenia nototaenia* (Gunther) Bark Snake, Spot-striped Snake, Dusky-bellied Snake

Range: similar to *H. kelleri* but also reported west of the Rift Valley in the Lodwar-Lokitaung area (Pitman 1974) and not yet collected in the southern sector of the Rift Valley where *H. kelleri* occurs.

Recorded from: Diani, Garba Tulla, Garissa, Kilifi, Mackinnon Road, Malindi, Mandera, Mtwapa, Mwingi, Ndi, Samburu (coast loc.), Shimoni, Tarbaj, Tsavo, Voi.

Genus *Psammophylax* Fitzinger

*Psammophylax variabilis multisquamis* (Loveridge) Striped Skaapsteker, Striped Grass-snake, Common Skaapsteker

Range: grasslands and *Acacia* woodlands of west, central and eastern Kenya, usually above 1000 m altitude. Occurs on the Loita Plains, common in the grasslands of the high central Rift Valley and the grasslands around the north-western base of Mt Kenya, it also occurs in the high grass moorlands of the massif and probably occurs on the Aberdare moorlands though not yet recorded there. It is also found in the Embakasi-Athi plains area, south to Kajiado and the northern foothills of Kilimanjaro. In eastern Kenya it is known from the Chyulu Hills, Mtito Andei and Voi.

Recorded from: Athi River, Chyulu Hills, Juja, Kaimosi, Kapiti Plains, Kiambu, Kijabe, Kinangop Plateau, Laikipia plains, Loita plains, Molo, Mtito Andei, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nakuru, Ngong, Ol Kalou, Oloitokitok, Rutundu, Sotik, Thika, Timau, Voi.

Genus *Rhamphiophis* Peters

*Rhamphiophis oxyrhynchus rostratus* Peters      Rufous Beaked-snake, Brown Beaked-snake, Eastern Sharp-nosed Snake

Range: northern and north-eastern Kenya, below 1200 m altitude, Tana River, Tsavo, the coast, eastern Kitui, Amboseli, and the southern Rift Valley in the Magadi-Olorgesailie area. Above 1200 m altitude it occurs around Kajiado and specimens have penetrated up the river valleys on the south-eastern base of Mt Kenya to as high as Muranga.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Baringo, Buchuma, Chiokarige, Ferguson's Gulf, Galole, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kakuma, Kerio Valley, Kikambala, Kilifi, Kwale, Laisamis, Lamu, Lokori, Magadi, Malindi, Malka Murri, Mandera, Meru Game Reserve, Mombasa, Mtito Andei, Muranga, Mwingi, Olorgesailie, Samburu Game Reserve, Shimoni, Sololo, Taveta, Tharaka, Tsavo East, Vipingo, Voi, Wajir, Witu.

*Rhamphiophis rubropunctatus* (Fischer)      Red-spotted Beaked-snake

Range: eastern Kenya, south from the Dida-galgalu through Marsabit District (but not the mountain) and Isiolo to Garissa, eastern Kitui and the Tana River districts, Amboseli, Tsavo and the coast. Not known west of the Rift Valley although it occurs on the floor in the Baringo-southern Lake Turkana region and the southern sector in the Magadi-Olorgesailie area. Not recorded from Wajir and Mandera districts. Usually found below 800 m altitude and not common anywhere.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Baringo, Dida-galgalu, Garissa, Kilifi, Loiyangalani, Malindi, Manyani, Mt Mbololo, Mtito Andei, Mwingi, Tsavo East, Voi.

Genus *Psammophis* Boie

*Psammophis sibilans sibilans* (Linnaeus)      Hissing Sand Snake, Olive Sand Snake, Sun Snake

Range: most well-watered savannah and light woodland areas in Kenya up to altitudes of 2500 m. Not recorded from most of the dry north or north-east (although recorded from Moyale).

Recorded from: Athi River, Baringo, Chyulu Hills, Kakamega, Kangetet, Kapenguria, Kibwezi, Kilifi, Kitale, Kitui, Lambwe Valley, Konza, Makuyu, Malindi, Mara Game Reserve, Mt Mbololo, Meru, Meru Game Reserve, Mombasa, Moyale, Mtito Andei, Nairobi, Naivasha, Ngong, Rumuruti, Sagana, Shimoni, Sokoke Forest, Sultan Hamud, Thika, Tigania, Voi, Witu.

*Psammophis punctulatus trivirgatus* Peters      Southern Speckled Sand Snake, Spotted Sand Snake

Range: widespread in the dry low country of north, northeastern and eastern Kenya in all places below 900 m altitude. Also recorded from the southern Rift Valley sector and the Amboseli area. Not recorded from the coast.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Baringo, Buna, Chiokarige, Eliye Springs, El Wak, Ferguson's Gulf, Garissa, Kakuma, Kangetet, Kiboko, Laisamis, Lodwar, Lokichoggio, Lokori, Loiyangalani, Lokitaung, Magadi, Malka Murri, Mandera, Mwingi, Olorgesailie, Orupoi, Taru, Tharaka, Voi, Wajir, Wajir Bor.

*Psammophis biseriatus* (†) Peters      Link-marked Sand-snake

Range: similar to *P.p. trivirgatus*, but also occurs along the coastal strip.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Baringo, Buna, Chiokarige, Ferguson's Gulf, Garissa, Habaswein, Illaut, Isiolo, Kakuma, Kangetet, Kibwezi, Kikambala, Lamu, Laisamis, Lodwar, Loiyangalani, Lokitaung, Malindi, Malka Murri, Mandera, Mtito Andei, Muddo Gashi, Mwingi, Mt Ololokwe, Olorgesailie, Samburu Game Reserve, Shimba Hills, Sigor, Tharaka, Tsavo, Voi, Wajir, Wajir Bor, Watamu.

*Psammophis subtaeniatus sudanensis* Werner      Northern Stripe-bellied Sand Snake

Range: widespread in savannah and thornbush country in west, central, east and southern Kenya and the coast, from sea level to altitudes of 2000 m. In the north, known from the southern parts of Isiolo District, Samburu District and the Mathews Range, Baringo, Kerio Valley and Turkana, but so far unrecorded from Wajir or Mandera districts. An inhabitant of open country, not found in forest or very arid country.

Recorded from: Athi River, Amboseli, Changanwe, Chiokarige, Gazi, Gilgil, Isiolo, Kapenguria, Kerio Valley, Kibwezi, Kilifi, Kitui, Konza, Lamu, Mt Longonot, Malindi, Mkonumbi, Mombasa, Mwingi, Nairobi, Ngong, Mt Ololokwe, Shimoni, Thika, Wamba, Witu.

*Psammophis pulcher* Boulenger \*(C.A.S., B.M.)      Beautiful Sand Snake

Range: probably the rarest of Kenyan snakes, it is known from three specimens alone. The holotype was collected on the Webi Shebeli River in Somalia in 1894. Since that date only two specimens have been collected, both from southern Kenya, one at Voi in 1961 and the other near Mwingi in 1972. Although difficult to discuss range where only three examples are concerned, it would appear that this snake prefers areas of low woodland steppe, as all three specimens were taken from this vegetation type.

(†) Trinomials are not used as this species is at present undergoing revision.



### Subfamily : Aparallactinae

#### Genus *Aparallactus* Smith

*Aparallactus jacksonii jacksonii* (Gunther) Jackson's Centipede-eater, Kilimanjaro Centipede-eater

Range: recorded from Malka Murri in the hills along the northern border. Does not apparently occur in Marsabit or Isiolo District but reappears on the southern slopes of Mt Kenya, from whence it spreads south through Nairobi to Kajiado, Amboseli and the northern foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, east to Voi and Taru. It is also recorded from the eastern shore of Lake Naivasha but the connections of this population are not yet known.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Chuka, Nairobi, Naivasha, Oloitokitok, Taru, Voi.

*Aparallactus lunulatus concolor* (Fischer) Plumbeous Centipede-eater

Range: widespread in the dry low country of northern Kenya, below altitudes of 1000 m, although absent from the areas of near-desert east of Lake Turkana. In eastern Kenya, it occurs through eastern Kitui and Tsavo and, though it has not apparently colonised the coastal strip, it has penetrated high up on the eastern area of high ground stretching between Mt Kenya and Nairobi, to locations such as Tunyai, Muranga and the Athi Plains. However, it does not appear to have crossed the area of high land south of Kajiado and is not yet recorded from Amboseli or the southern sector of the Rift Valley.

Recorded from: Athi Plains, Bura, Chiokarige, Isiolo, Kabluk, Kinna, Lali Hills, Lodwar, Lokori, Lomut, Malka Murri, Mt Mbololo, Meru Game Reserve, Mtito Andei, Muranga, Mwingi, Sigor, Taru, Thika, Wajir Bor.

*Aparallactus guentheri* Boulenger Guenther's Centipede-eater

Range: coastal plain and the Taita Hills.

Recorded from: Mt Mbololo, Ngatana.

*Aparallactus turneri* Loveridge Malindi Centipede-eater

Range: northern coastal plain, from Mombasa north to the Lamu archipelago. Probably occurs south of Mombasa Island but not yet recorded there.

Recorded from: Lamu Island, Malindi, Mkonumbi, Peccatoni, Sokoke Forest.

#### Genus *Polemon* Jan

*Polemon christyi* (Boulenger) \*(Loc. cited Pitman 1974) Christy's Snake-eater

Range: known from a single record, from Netima, northern Kakamega District, western Kenya. In Uganda it is regarded as a species associated with primary forest or relics.

#### Genus *Atractaspis* Smith

*Atractaspis microlepidota microlepidota* Gunther Black Burrowing-viper, Small-scaled Burrowing-adder

Range: widespread over north and eastern Kenya, in all types of country up to 1000 m altitude, including the coast. Also known from the Amboseli and Mara areas and the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro. Although unrecorded, it probably occurs in the southern sector of the Rift Valley.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Emali, Garsen, Garissa, Keekorok, Kilifi, Lodwar, Lokori, Mackinnon Road, Malindi, Malka Murri, Mtito Andei, Oloitokitok, Shimba Hills, Voi.

*Atractaspis irregularis bipostocularis* Boulenger Eastern Variable Burrowing-viper

Range: east of the Rift Valley, it occurs in the Nyambeni Range, the south-eastern Mt Kenya forest and Muranga District, but apparently no further south on the eastern side. On the western side of the Rift, it has been recorded from Njoro, and from there it spreads west to the lakeshore and the Kakamega forest. It seems to prefer forested or recently deforested country, although there is a single record from the Laikipia plains north-west of Mt Kenya. Usually found at over 1000 m altitude.

Recorded from: Chuka, Kakamega, Kisumu, Laikipia, Muranga, Njoro, Nyambeni Hills.

*Atractaspis bibronii rostrata* Gunther Zanzibar Burrowing-viper

Range: the southern coastal plain, from the Tana delta south to Tanzania.

Recorded from: Changamwe, Kilifi, Ngatana, Shimoni.

*Atractaspis engdahli* Lonnberg and Andersson \*(C.A.S.)

Range: Known from a single specimen, from Wajir Bor, north-eastern Kenya. May possibly occur in the south-eastern part of Garissa District as it is found in southern Somalia.

#### Genus *Amblyodipsas* Peters

*Amblyodipsas teitana* Broadley Taita Hills Purple-gloss Snake

Range: known solely from the holotype, collected in the Taita Hills.

*Amblyodipsas unicolor* (Reinhardt) Western Purple-gloss Snake

Range: forests of the Nyambeni Hills range, south-eastern Mt Kenya and the forest of the western wall of the Kerio Valley. The connections of these apparently isolated populations are not yet known.

Recorded from: Chuka, Kerio Valley, Nyambeni Hills.

*Amblyodipsas polylepis hildebrandtii* (Peters) Hildebrandt's Purple-gloss Snake

Range: coastal plain, from the Tana delta south to the Tanzanian border.

Recorded from: Changamwe, Mombasa, Ngatana.

Genus *Micrelaps* Boettger*Micrelaps bicoloratus* Sternfield

Range: low-lying country of south-eastern Kenya, from Nairobi Falls eastward through Kitui, Tsavo West and the Tana River to the north coast.

Recorded from: Ijara, Kibwezi, Konza, Lali Hills, Manda, Nairobi Falls (Sukari Ranch), Ol Donyo Sabuk, Oloitokitok, Samburu (coast loc.).

*Micrelaps vaillanti* (Mocquard) \*(C.A.S.) Black-headed Snake

Range: semi-desert scrubland of Wajir and Mandera districts, north-eastern Kenya.

Recorded from: Mandera, Wajir.

**Subfamily: Dasypeltinae**Genus *Dasypeltis* Wagler*Dasypeltis scabra* (Linnaeus) Common Egg-eater, Egg-eating Snake

Range: throughout Kenya, in all types of vegetation and all ranges of altitude up to 3000 m.

Recorded from: Athi River, Buna, Cherangani Hills, Chyulu Hills, Diani, Eldoret, Mt Elgon, Garsen, Isiolo, Kacheliba, Kakamega, Kericho, Kiambu, Kijabe, Kilifi, Lali Hills, Lamu, Malindi, Manyani, Mara Game Reserve, Mombasa, Mwino, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nakuru, Nandi Hills, Nanyuki, Narok, Ngatana, Nyambeni Hills, Wajir, Witu.

*Dasypeltis medici medici* (Bianconi) Rufous Egg-eater

Range: red laterite soils and coastal savannah in the south-east corner of Kenya, south and east from Ndi through Kwale, Kilifi to the sea.

Recorded from: Bamburi, Ndi, Shimoni, Taru, Tiwi, Voi.

*Dasypeltis medici lamuensis* Gans Red Egg-eater, Lamu Egg-eater

Range: south from coastal Somalia, down the north coast to Kilifi, where it meets with *D. m. medici* in the Galana River-Voi area.

Recorded from: Kikambala, Kilifi, Lamu, Malindi, Mt Mbololo, Voi.

**Family: Elapidae****Subfamily: Elapinae**Genus *Elapsoidea* Bocage*Elapsoidea loveridgei loveridgei* Parker North-eastern Garter-snake

Range: grassland and savannah in central and eastern Kenya, east of the Rift Valley, above 1200 m. Occurs on Marsabit mountain though not in the dry country surrounding it. It is found in the Mt Kenya area, south through Embu and Muranga to Nairobi, Machakos and Kajiado. It occurs on the eastern wall of the Rift Valley at Kijabe, but is not recorded from the floor and this would seem to be the buffer zone separating this type from the subspecies *E.l. multicincta*.

Recorded from: Athi River, Karen, Karura Forest, Kiambu, Kijabe, Machakos, Marsabit, Nairobi, Thika.

*Elapsoidea loveridgei multicincta* Laurent Many-banded Garter-snake

Range: grassland and savannah west of the Rift Valley, from the Cherangani Hills south to the Mara.

Recorded from: Bungoma, Cherangani Hills, Fort Ternan, Kaimosi, Kakamega, Kericho, Kisumu, Kitale, Lambwe Valley, Loita Plains, Njoro.

Genus *Naja* Laurenti*Naja nigricollis nigricollis* Reinhardt Spitting Cobra, Black-necked Cobra, Common Spitting Cobra

Range: throughout Kenya, apart from areas above 2400 m, the forests west of the Rift Valley (where its place is taken by *N. melanoleuca*) and the near-desert areas east of Lake Turkana. Rare at altitudes over 1200 m, with the exception of the Nairobi-Thika-Athi area.

Recorded from: Athi River, Baringo, Buna, Chiokarige, Chyulu Hills, Embu, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kiboko, Kibwezi, Kilifi, Malindi, Maua, Meru, Mombasa, Mwingi, Mwino, Nairobi, Naivasha, Ol Tukai (Amboseli Game Reserve), Shimoni, Sigor, Thika, Ulu Hills, Vipingo.

*Naja mossambica pallida* Boulenger    Red Spitting Cobra

Range: eastern Turkana district and the environs of Lake Turkana, east to Marsabit District (but not the mountain), Wajir and Mandera districts, south through Archer's Post, Samburu Game Reserve, Isiolo, Meru Game Reserve and Garissa District to the Tana River, eastern Kitui and Tsavo. West from there across the Yatta Plateau to Amboseli and the southern sector of the Rift Valley. Not recorded from the coast and nearly always found below 900 m altitude.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Chiokarige, Eliye Springs, Ferguson's Gulf, Galana River, Garissa, Isiolo, Kakuma, Kibwezi, Laisamis, Malka Murri, Manyani, Meru Game Reserve, Moille Hill, Mtito Andei, Mwingi, Olorgesailie, Samburu Game Reserve, South Island, Lake Turkana, Voi, Wamba, Wajir, Yatta Plateau.

*Naja haje haje* (Linnaeus)    Egyptian Cobra

Range: north from Mt Longido (Tanzania) through Amboseli to Kajiado, Machakos and Nairobi, as far north as Ol Donyo Sabuk. This population also enters the Rift Valley west of Kajiado, spreading north past Mt. Suswa to as far as Naivasha, where it apparently stops. A seemingly isolated population occurs in the Isiolo-Samburu area and this snake is also recorded from the vicinity of Bungoma, Mt Elgon, thence across the border into Uganda.

Recorded from: Athi River, Amboseli, Bungoma, Isiolo, Kahawa, Kajiado, Machakos, Nairobi, Naivasha, Ol Donyo Sabuk, Thika.

*Naja melanoleuca* Hallowell    Forest Cobra, Black and White Cobra, Black-lipped Cobra

Range: eastward from the Uganda border between Mt Elgon and the lake, through Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Eldoret, Kakamega and Kericho districts to the Elgeyo Escarpment and the Rift Valley wall east of the Mau. This species has descended the wall to the west of Nakuru and spread a little way south along the base of the escarpment, and east to Rongai, Nakuru and Mt Menengai.

A population occurs in the forest of south-eastern Mt Kenya and the Nyambeni Range, it is also known from the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and the lower Galana River on the coast. The Mt Kenya-Nyambeni population seems to be an isolated one, the coast group is probably linked via the south coast with the Tanzanian population.

Although mainly a forest snake, it appears well able to adapt itself to different environments as it has spread into dry country around Rongai, north-west of Nakuru, and into grassland country on the west flank of the Nyambeni Range.

Recorded from: Eldama Ravine, Eldoret, Embu (Castle Forest Station), Gede, Kakamega, Kericho, Kilifi, Kisumu, Kitale, Makutano, Malindi, Nakuru, Njoro, Nyambeni Hills, Rongai, Serem.

Genus *Pseudohaje* Gunther*Pseudohaje goldii* (Boulenger) \*(N.M.K.)    Gold's Cobra, Tree-cobra, Black Forest-cobra.

Range: a west African forest species, reaching the easternmost limits of its range in the Kakamega Forest. Recorded from: Kakamega Forest, Khayega.

Genus *Dendroaspis* Schlegel*Dendroaspis jamesoni kaimosae* Loveridge    Jameson's Mamba

Range: a central African species, reaching the easternmost limits of its range in the Kakamega Forest. Recorded from: Kakamega Forest.

*Dendroaspis angusticeps* (Smith)    Green Mamba

Range: the coastal plain, the gallery forest of the Tana river as far up as the Nyambeni Range, from whence it has spread north into the forest at the south-eastern base of these hills. Also recorded from Kibwezi forest and the forest of the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro and around Taveta, it is feasible these populations are connected via the Chyulu Range. A forest and thicket species, almost never found in open country.

Recorded from: Diani, Kibwezi, Kilifi, Malindi, Meru Game Reserve, Mombasa, Mtwapa, Nyambeni Hills, Shimba Hills, Shimoni, Taveta, Watamu.

*Dendroaspis polylepis polylepis* Gunther    Black Mamba

Range: fairly widespread in low woodland and scrub country. It occurs along the length of the coast, west through Tsavo and Amboseli to southern Kajiado and across into the southern sector of the Rift Valley and west to the Mara. A single specimen (N.M.K. 1019) is known from Karen on the south side of Nairobi, if it arrived there by normal faunal progression it probably came via Olorgesailie and the Ngong Hills. From Tsavo, the range spreads north through eastern Kitui, the west bank of the Tana, the Tharaka Plain and the Meru Game Reserve to the north end of the Nyambeni Range and east to the Samburu Game Reserve. Here the distribution appears to peter out, but it may occur through the Mathews Range and Maralal area, as it is known from the Baringo-Mogotio area and the southern Kerio Valley. Specimens are also recorded from Nandi Hills and Songhor, probably reaching this area via the southern end of the Kerio Valley. From Sigor, the range extends north to West Pokot and through the high country along the border, where it meets with *D.p. antinorii* in the Kidepo area, Uganda. It is not known from Marsabit, Wajir or Mandera districts, as it prefers terrain with a reasonable amount of tree cover. It is rare in areas over 1000 m altitude.

Recorded from: Amboseli, Baringo, Bungoma, Chiokarige, Diani, Gede, Kerio Valley, Kilifi, Kitui, Makindu, Malindi, Manda Island, Mara Game Reserve, Meru Game Reserve, Mogotio, Mombasa, Mtito Andei, Mwingi, Mwino, Nairobi, Nandi Hills, Shimoni, Sigor, Songhor, Taveta, Tsavo, Tunyai, Voi.



*Dendroaspis polylepis antinorii* Peters Northern Black Mamba

Range: although not recorded in north-west Kenya, it is known from just across the border in the Mt. Moroto region and probably occurs in the Karasuk Hills and the Omo River region. East from Sololo along the northern border it occurs in the hills and along the Daua River to Mandera, but is not known further south in that area.

Recorded from: Malka Murri, Mandera, Moyale, Sololo.

**Subfamily : Hydrophiinae**Genus *Pelamis* Daudin*Pelamis platurus* (Linnaeus) \*(N.M.K.) Parti-coloured Sea-snake, Yellow-bellied Sea-snake

Range: there is only one authenticated report of the occurrence of this snake on the Kenya coast. The single specimen was taken at Malindi.

**Family : Viperidae**Genus *Causus* Wagler*Causus rhombeatus* (Lichtenstein) Rhombic Night-adder

Range: higher well-watered areas of east, central and western Kenya, although it extends down the river valleys into dryer country in some areas. A single coast record from the Jilore Forest.

Recorded from: Athi River, Chyulu Hills, Embu, Jilore Forest, Kahawa, Kibwezi, Kisumu, Limuru, Meru, Meru Game Reserve, Molo, Muranga, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nandi Hills, Nyambeni Hills, Nyeri, Ruiru, Thika.

*Causus defilippii* (Jan) Snouted Night-adder

Range: the coastal plain, from Malindi southwards, and rare in that area.

Recorded from: Gede, Kikambala, Kilifi, Shimoni, Sokoke Forest, Tiwi.

*Causus resimus* (Peters) Velvety-green Night-adder

Range: two widely separated populations exist. In the west this snake occurs north from the Mara area through Kisii, Kericho and the gulf areas to Kakamega, Eldoret, Kitale and south-east Mt Elgon, from whence the range curves west into Uganda. A population also occurs on the coast, from Kikambala north to the Tana delta.

It has not been recorded in the areas separating the two populations.

Recorded from: Eldoret, Garsen, Jilore Forest, Kabarnet, Kericho, Kikambala, Kilifi, Kipini, Kisumu, Kitale, Mara Game Reserve, Nandi Hills, Ngatana, Sotik, Tambach, Tiwi, Witu, Yala River.

*Causus lichtensteinii* (Jan) Forest Night-adder

Range: confined to a small area in western Kenya, centreing on the Kakamega Forest and the upper Yala River valley.

Recorded from: Kaimosi, Kakamega, Yala River.

Genus *Bitis* Gray*Bitis worthingtoni* Parker Kenya Horned Viper, Worthington's Viper

Range: endemic to Kenya. The southernmost record is from the north-west Kedong, from whence it extends north along the floor and eastern wall of the Rift Valley through Naivasha and Elmenteita to Njoro, where the range extends up the western wall and out of the Rift to Kipkabus and Eldoret (most northerly record). It favours the high ground, and is found on the Kinangop and the hills west of Naivasha, it probably occurs on the eastern flank of the Mau, although as yet unrecorded. Not recorded from anywhere below 1500 m. Thus the low areas of the Rift Valley north of Nakuru and south of Suswa probably act as barriers to range expansion.

Recorded from: Eldoret, Gilgil, Kijabe, Kipkabus, Naivasha, Ol Kalou, South Kinangop.

*Bitis arietans arietans* (Merrem) Puff Adder

Range: almost all of Kenya, from sea-level scrubland to the moorlands of the Aberdare mountains at 3500 m, in all types of country with the exception of the near-desert areas east of Lake Turkana, areas of thick forest, and a region centreing on Mandera and Wajir Districts, north-eastern Kenya, where the subspecies *B.a. somalica* occurs.

Recorded from: almost every major town in Kenya, including Eldoret, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kitale, Kisumu, Malindi, Mombasa, Nairobi, Naivasha, Nakuru, Narok, Thika and Voi.

*Bitis arietans somalica* Parker Somali Puff Adder

Range: Wajir and Mandera districts. May occur in northern Isiolo District, as the Lorian Swamp-Samburu area is the region of intergradation with the typical form.

Recorded from: Buna, El Wak, Mandera, Wajir.

*Bitis gabonica gabonica* (Dumeril and Bibron) \*(N.M.K.) Gaboon Viper

Range: a forest and forest fringe species, so far only recorded from the Kakamega and Nandi Hills forests in western Kenya. Although believed to occur along the south coast from Jadini southwards, it has never been authentically recorded there.

Recorded from: Kakamega Forest, Nandi Hills.

*Bitis nasicornis* (Shaw) Rhinoceros-horned Viper, River Jack

Range: a central African forest species, reaching the easternmost limits of its range in the Kakamega and Nandi Hills forests, western Kenya. Usually associated with wet forest areas.

Recorded from: Chemoni, Kakamega, Nandi Hills, Serem.

Genus *Echis* Merrem*Echis carinatus leakeyi* Stemmler Leakey's Carpet-viper, Saw-scaled Viper, Kenya Carpet-viper

Range: sporadically distributed across the low country of northern Kenya. The most southerly record is from the Garissa-Sankuri area, it is also recorded in the Samburu Game Reserve-Mt. Ololokwe-Laisamis area, these two populations may be connected via the east bank of the Tana and the north end of the Nyambeni Range. It is not known in the high country extending from Maralal to South Horr, but is abundant in the country around Lake Turkana and eastern Turkana district, right up to the Sudan, although it does not extend west into the higher country along the Uganda border. South of Lake Turkana, it extends as far as Baringo but does not apparently enter the Kerio Valley.

Recorded from: Baringo, Buffalo Springs (Samburu Game Reserve), Eliye Springs, Ferguson's Gulf, Garissa, Kakuma, Laisamis, Lodwar, Lokitaung, Lokori, Loiyangalani, Moille Hill, Mt Ololokwe.

*Echis carinatus aliborri* Drewes and Sacherar Red Carpet-viper

Range: as yet, only recorded from the vicinity of Wajir town, Wajir District, North-eastern Province.

Genus *Vipera* Laurenti*Vipera hindii* Boulenger Montane Viper

Range: endemic to Kenya. Moorlands of the Aberdare mountains and Mt Kenya, at 3000 m and over.

Recorded from: Aberdare Range, Kiandogoro, Rutundu (Mt Kenya moorlands).

Genus *Atheris* Cope*Atheris squamiger squamiger* (Hallowell) Green Bush-viper

Range: a west African forest species, reaching the easternmost limits of its range in the Kakamega Forest, western Kenya.

Recorded from: Kakamega Forest.

*Atheris hispida* Laurent \*(N.M.K., B.M.) Prickly Bush-viper

Range: as for *A.s. squamiger*.

Recorded from: Kakamega Forest.

*Atheris desaixi* Ashe \*(N.M.K.) Mt Kenya Bush-viper

Range: endemic to Kenya. Known solely from the south-east Mt Kenya forest and the forest of the eastern Nyambeni Range.

Recorded from: Chuka, Igembe.

## GAZETTEER

Abbreviations used: E (East); GR (Game Reserve); L (Lake); Mt (Mountain); N (North); NP (National Park); NEP (North-eastern Province); S (South); W (West).

Aberdares, ancient volcanic mountain range and NP, above eastern wall of Rift Valley, Nyandarua District, central Kenya. Approx 60 km long, highest peak Ol Donyo Lesatima, 3998 m.

Amboseli GR, southern Kenya on Kenya-Tanzania boundary.

Athi River, town 1°27'S, 36°58'E; river rising in Ngong Hills, flowing SE to Athi River town, NE to Ol Donyo Sabuk, then SE to Tsavo, becoming Galana River.

Bamburi, coast beach area, 8 km NE of Mombasa, 4°02'S, 39°42'E.

Baringo, town 0°38'N, 36°17'E; lake and district north of Nakuru.

Buchuma, gate of Tsavo East NP; railway station, 3°39'S, 38°55'E; altitude 445 m.

Buna, 2°48'N, 39°31'E; NEP town.

Bungoma, 0°35'N, 34°34'E; district town, Western Province.

Bura, 1°05'S, 39°58'E; Tana River Police post.

Central Island, second largest and most central of the three major Lake Turkana islands, 3°30'N, 36°03'E.

Changamwe, 4°S, 39°34'E; railway station inland from Mombasa.

Chemoni, 0°07'N, 36°06'E; tea estate town on E side of Nandi-Kakamega forest.

Cherangani Hills, forested range about 50 km long, running S-N, centre approx. 70 km E of Mt Elgon.

Highest peak 3370 m.

Chiokarige, 0°18'S, 37°56'E; W edge of Tharaka Plain, alt. 730 m.

Chogoria, 0°13'S, 37°39'E.

Chuka, E slopes of Mt. Kenya, 0°21'S, 37°42'E.

Chyulu Hills, grass and forest covered range some 50 km long, in northern sector of Tsavo West NP, running NW-SE, SW of Kibwezi. Highest peak 1780 m.

Daua River, river marking boundary between Kenya and Ethiopia, in Mandera District, NEP.

Diani, S coast beach area, 4°20'S, 39°35'E.

Dida-galgalu, 2°58'N, 38°10'E; lava desert north of Mt Marsabit.

Eldama Ravine, 0°03'N, 35°43'E.

Eldoret, 0°31'N, 35°18'E.

Elgon, Mount, ancient volcanic peak on Kenya-Uganda border, highest peak Wagagai, 4320 m, lower slopes forest covered.

Eliye Springs, 3°18'N, 36°01'E; fishing camp, W shore Lake Turkana.

Elmenteita, Lake, central Rift Valley lake, between Naivasha and Nakuru.

El Wak, 2°49'N, 40°57'E.

Emali, 2°04'S, 37°29'E.

Embu, 0°33'S, 37°28'E.

Ferguson's Gulf, 3°31'N, 35°57'E; large inlet W shore L Turkana.

Fort Ternan, 0°11'S, 35°21'E.

Galana River, formed by confluence of Tsavo and Athi rivers, 12 km north of Manyani, thence flows E to the sea.

Galole, 1°31'S, 40°01'E; Tana River town.

Garba Tulla, 0°31'N, 38°32'E.

Garissa, 0°29'S, 39°40'E.

Garsen, 2°17'S, 40°06'E; lower Tana River.

Gazi, 4°28'S, 39°31'E; S coast.

Gede, 3°21'S, 40°01'E; ancient ruins and coast forest.

Gilgil, 0°31'S, 30°21'E; central Rift Valley town.

Habaswein, 1°N, 39°30'E.

High Central Rift Valley, area of the Rift Valley floor over 1200 m altitude, between the S end of L Bogoria (formerly Hannington) and the N end of L Magadi.

Igembe, 0°12'N, 37°58'E; mission on eastern edge of Nyambeni Hill forest.

Ijara, 1°37'S, 40°33'E.

Illaut, 1°53'N, 37°18'E.

Isiolo, 0°22'N, 37°38'E.

Jadini, 4°21'S, 39°34'E; S coast beach.

Jilore Forest, coastal forest 30 km W of Malindi.

Juja, 2°48'N, 37°05'E; 45 km NNE of Nairobi.

Kabarnet, 0°30'N, 35°46'E.

Kabluk, 0°35'N, 35°41'E; S Kerio Valley.

Kacheliba, 1°30'N, 35°01'E.

Kahawa, 1°12'S, 36°55'E; barracks 12 km NE of Nairobi.

Kaimosi, 0°08'N, 34°52'E.

Kajiado, 1°52'S, 36°48'E.

Kakamega, 0°18'N, 34°47'E.

Kakamega Forest, scattered forest on the western edge of the Nandi escarpment, lying E of Kakamega town average altitude 1900 m.

Kakuma, 3°42'N, 34°53'E.

Kangetet, 1°59'N, 36°02'E.

Kapenguria, 1°15'N, 35°07'E.

Kapiti Plains, area of open grassland NE of Kajiado, altitude 1580 m.

Kapsabet, 0°13'N, 35°05'E.

Karura Forest, small forest 6 km N of Nairobi.

Kau, 2°29'S, 40°28'E; Tana River delta.

Kedong Valley, valley running SW from Kijabe, between Mts Longonot and Suswa, Rift Valley.

Keekorok, 1°36'S, 35°14'E; lodge of the Mara GR.

Kenya, Mt, ancient volcanic mountain, approx 0°10'S, 37°20'E, highest peak Nelion, 5198 m.

Kericho, 0°24'S, 35°17'E.

Kerio Valley-Kerio River-Kerio, river rising in the hills N of Eldama Ravine, W of Kabarnet, flowing N through Lokori to the SW shore of Lake Turkana.

Khayega, 0°14'N, 35°02'E; forest station, Kakamega Forest.

Kiambu, 1°10'S, 36°51'E, 11 km N of Nairobi.

Kiandogoro, 0°29'S, 36°45'E; Moorland on E of Aberdare Range.

Kianjai, 0°10'N, 37°48'E; market on W edge of Nyambeni Range.

Kibwezi, 2°26'S, 37°58'E.

Kiboko, 2°11'S, 37°43'E, railway station, Hunter's Lodge.

Kijabe, 0°56'S, 36°37'E; eastern wall of Rift Valley.

Kikambala, 3°54'S, 39°48'E; coast beach area.



Kilaguni, 2°55'S, 38°03'E, lodge, Tsavo West.

Kilibasi, 3°59'S, 38°58'E.

Kilifi, 3°39'S, 39°52'E; coast district HQ.

Kima, 1°59'S, 37°17'E.

Kinangop, plateau and valley E of Naivasha.

Kinangop, South, 0°42'S, 36°41'E; town at S end of plateau.

Kinangop, North, 0°37'S, 36°36'E; town at N end of plateau.

Kindaruma, 0°49'S, 37°48'E; hydro-electric power station, Tana River.

Kinna, 0°26'N, 38°12'E.

Kipini, 2°32'S, 40°34'E.

Kipkabus, 0°20'N, 35°32'E.

Kisumu, 0°07'S, 34°48'E.

Kitale, 1°01'N, 35°01'E.

Kitui, 1°23'S, 38°01'E.

Konza, 1°45'S, 37°07'E.

Kwale, 4°11'S, 39°28'E.

Laikipia, plains area between Nyahururu (Thomson's Falls) and Maralal.

Laisamis, 1°36'N, 37°49'E.

Lali Hills, approx. 3°S, 39°15'E; small range on eastern boundary of Tsavo East NP.

Lambwe Valley, Lambwe Valley GR, small game reserve set in valley of same name on hills above southern shore of Homa Bay, approx. 0°40'S, 34°15'E.

Lamu, N coast town and island, 2°19'S, 40°53'E.

Likoni, 4°06'S, 39°40'E, S coast, opposite Mombasa Island.

Limuru, 0°06'S, 36°39'E.

Lodwar, 3°07'N, 35°38'E; on Turkwell River, W of L Turkana.

Loita Plains, plains area NE of Mara GR.

Loiyangalani, 2°48'N, 36°43'E; L Turkana fishing camp.

Lokichoggio, 4°12'N, 34°23'E.

Lokitaung, 4°17'N, 35°47'E.

Lokori, 1°58'N, 36°01'E.

Lokwa Kangole, 3°34'N, 35°55'E; settlement on banks of Ferguson's Gulf, L Turkana.

Lomut, 1°25'N, 35°35'E.

Longarippe, 2°38'N, 36°45'E; mountain on SE shore of L Turkana.

Longido, 2°42'S, 36°44'E; hill in NE Tanzania, 2650 m.

Longonot, Mt, 0°55'S, 36°28'E; volcano in Rift Valley, S of Naivasha.

Lorian Swamp, 0°50'N, 39°45'E; swamp in NE Kenya, marks end of Uaso Nyiro River.

Machakos, 1°32'S, 37°17'E.

Mackinnon Road, 3°43'S, 39°03'E.

Magadi, soda lake on Kenya's southern border; town on E lakeshore, 1°55'S, 36°19'E.

Maima Springs, 0°40'S, 34°47'E. Source of Maima River, W Kenya.

Makindu, 2°18'S, 37°51'E.

Makueni, 1°49'S, 37°39'E small boma on W side of Yatta Plateau.

Makutano, 0°03'S, 35°40'E.

Makuyu, 0°54'S, 37°11'E.

Malindi, 3°14'S, 40°06'E; town on N coast.

Malka Murri, 4°18'N, 40°47'E.

Manda, approx 2°18'S, 40°58'E; N coast island opposite Lamu.

Mandera, 3°57'N, 41°51'E; north-eastern corner of Kenya.

Manyani, 3°06'S, 38°30'E; Tsavo railway station and prison camp.

Mara Game Reserve, reserve of some 650 km<sup>2</sup> area, situated on the SW Kenya-Tanzania border.

Maralal, 1°05'N, 36°44'E.

Marsabit, area of large volcanic craters in northern Kenya, approx. 2°20'N, 38°E; isolated montane community above sub-desert steppe.

Mathews Range, wooded hill range N of Wamba.

Maua, 0°13'N, 37°58'E.

Mbololo, Mount, 3°20'S, 38°26'E. There is no actual locality of this name on the ordnance survey map, Voi sheet. However the Mbololo River, a seasonal watercourse which flows through Ndi to join the Galana River, rises on the western side of a 1455 m hill called Ndome, on the NE edge of the Taita range, and this is probably the hill called 'Mt Mbololo' and referred to as a locality of several specimens in the M.C.Z. collection.

Menengai, Mt, 0°15'S, 36°05'E; volcanic caldera north of Nakuru.

Meru, 0°02'N, 37°40'E.

Meru GR, reserve situated on the equator, SE of the Nyambeni Range, between 0°21'N-0°55'S and 38°01'E-38°27'E.

Mjanji, 0°16'N, 34°E; port on L Victoria on Kenya-Uganda border.

Mkonumbi, 2°20'S, 40°43'E.

Mkowe, 2°15'S, 40°52'E; jetty opposite Lamu.

- Mogotio, 0°02'S, 35°57'E.  
 Moiben, 0°49'N, 35°24'E.  
 Moille Hill, 1°33'N, 37°43'E.  
 Molo, 0°16'S, 35°44'E.  
 Mombasa, 4°04'S, 39°41'E; coastal city and island.  
 Mount Kenya National Park, all land above 3350 m altitude on Mt Kenya.  
 Moyale, 3°32'N, 39°04'E; Kenya-Ethiopia border town.  
 Mito Andei, 2°42'S, 38°11'E.  
 Mtwapa, 3°58'S, 39°46'E; coastal creek.  
 Muddo Gashi, 0°44'N, 39°11'E.  
 Muranga (formerly Fort Hall), 0°43'S, 37°11'E.  
 Mwingi, 0°58'S, 38°04'E.  
 Mwino, 1°28'N, 35°28'E; Kerio Valley.  
 Nairobi, 1°17'S, 36°49'E; capital city of Kenya.  
 Nairobi Falls, 1°13'S, 37°04'E; waterfall on Nairobi River.  
 Naivasha, freshwater lake in high central Rift Valley, town 0°44'S, 36°27'E.  
 Nakuru, alkaline lake N of L Naivasha in the high central Rift Valley, town 0°18'S, 36°04'E.  
 Nandi Hills, approx 0°07'N, 35°11'E; small town and tea-growing area in hill range 24 km SE of Kapsabet.  
 Nanyuki, 0°01'N, 37°04'E.  
 Naro Moru, 0°10'S, 37°01'E.  
 Ndi, 3°15'S, 38°31'E.  
 Netima, 0°40'N, 34°34'E.  
 Ngatana, 2°30'S, 40°15'E; Tana River delta.  
 Ngorbit, 0°06'S, 36°40'E.  
 Ngong, town 1°23'S, 36°40'E; Ngong Hills, small range some 10 km long, lying SW of Nairobi.  
 Njoro, 0°20'S, 35°57'E.  
 North Kinangop, see after Kinangop.  
 Nyahururu, (formerly Thomson's Falls), 0°02'N, 36°24'E.  
 Nyambeni Hills, forested hill range lying NE of Meru, running NE-SW, some 40 km long. Highest peak Itiene, 2515 m.  
 Nyeri, 0°25'S, 36°59'E.  
 Ol Doiyo Sabuk, 1°08'S, 37°15'E; large hill 25 km NE of Nairobi.  
 Ol Kalou, 0°17'S, 36°23'E.  
 Oloitokitok, 2°56'S, 37°33'E; NE slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro.  
 Ololokwe, Mountain, 1°50'N, 37°33'E; prominent flat-topped mountain 55 km N of Isiolo.  
 Olorgesailie, 1°36'S, 36°30'E.  
 Orupoi, 3°48'N, 34°23'E; police post.  
 Peccatoni, 2°27'S, 40°11'E; Tana River delta.  
 Ramu, 3°57'N, 41°14'E.  
 Rongai, 0°11'S, 35°52'E.  
 Ruaraka, 5 km NE of Nairobi.  
 Ruiru, 1°09'S, 36°59'E.  
 Rumuruti, 0°17'N, 36°33'E.  
 Rutundu, 0°02'S, 37°28'E, 3310 m peak NE Mt Kenya moorlands.  
 Sagana, 0°40'S, 37°12'E.  
 Saka, 0°09'S, 39°22'E.  
 Samburu, 3°47'S, 39°18'E; railway station on Mombasa-Voi line; also GR 15 km N of Isiolo, along the Uaso Nyiro River.  
 Sankuri, 0°16'S, 39°32'E.  
 Serem, 0°04'N, 34°52'E.  
 Sergoit, 0°42'N, 35°28'E; low rocky hill NW of Tambach.  
 Shaffa Dika, 0°18'S, 38°31'E; hill 20 km S of Garba Tulla.  
 Shimba Hills, forest and grassland covered range, approx. 25 km long, set back from the south coast, running SE from Kwale. Highest peak Pengo, 450 m.  
 Shimoni, 4°40'S, 39°23'E.  
 Sigor, 1°29'N, 35°29'E; Kerio Valley town.  
 Sokoke Forest, approx. 3°15'S, 39°55'E; large coastal forest W of Gede.  
 Sololo, 3°34'N, 38°41'E.  
 Songhor, 0°03'S, 35°13'E.  
 Sotik, 0°42'S, 35°06'E.  
 South Island, approx. 2°40'N, 36°38'E; largest and most southerly of L Turkana's islands.  
 South Kinangop, see after Kinangop.  
 Subukia, 0°02'S, 36°10'E.  
 Sukari Ranch, 1°14'S, 37°04'E.  
 Sultan Hamud, 2°02'S, 37°23'E.  
 Suswa, Mount, 1°09'S, 36°22'E; volcano in southern Rift Valley.

Taita Hills, hill range W of Voi, highest peak Ndome 1455 m.

Tambach, 0°36'N, 35°32'E.

Tarbaj, 2°12'N, 40°08'E.

Taru, 3°44'S, 39°10'E.

Taveta, 3°25'S, 37°41'E.

Tharaka Plain, area of thornbush and rocky scrub, from Chiokarige E to Tana River, on eastern edge of Mt Kenya foothills.

Thika, 1°02'S, 37°03'E.

Thomson's Falls, see Nyahururu.

Tigania, 0°11'N, 37°49'E; small mission on W side of Nyambeni Range.

Timau, 0°04'N, 37°16'E.

Tiwi, 4°13'S, 39°36'E.

Tororo-Broderick Falls road, 0°36'N, 34°38'E; road running approx E-W some 60 km south of Mt Elgon.

Tsavo, large NP, 20,900 km<sup>2</sup>, in SE Kenya.

Tsavo East, sector on E of Mombasa-Nairobi road, between Buchuma and Mtito Andei.

Tsavo West, sector on W of Mombasa road, between Manyani and Mtito Andei.

Tumutumu, 0°30'S, 37°03'E.

Tunyai, 0°11'S, 37°52'E.

Turkana, Lake, (formerly L Rudolf), long brackish lake in northern Kenya, northern tip in Ethiopia.

Ulu Hills, grass covered range SE of Kapiti Plains.

Uaso Nyiro, river rising in N foothills of Mt Kenya, flowing north to Isiolo, then E to Lorian Swamp.

Vipingo, 3°50'S, 39°49'E.

Voi, 3°24'S, 38°35'E.

Wajir, 1°45'N, 40°03'E.

Wajir Bor, 1°44'N, 40°36'E.

Wamba, 0°59'N, 37°22'E.

Wambugu, 0°40'S, 34°47'E.

Watamu, 3°22'S, 40°01'E; north coast village.

Wema, 2°11'S, 40°11'E; Tana River.

Winam Gulf, (formerly Kavirondo Gulf), long gulf on NE side of L Victoria, extending into Kenya.

Witu, 2°24'S, 40°28'E.

Wundanyi, 3°25'S, 38°23'E; Taita Hills.

Yala River, river rising in the forested hills W of Chemoni, then flowing W through the Kakamega Forest, through Yala town (0°06'N 34°32'E) then SW into L Victoria. Most records from 'Yala River' refer to the upper part of the river, the stretch between Chemoni and the point where it emerges from the forest just south of Kakamega town.

Yatta Plateau, 200 km long lava plateau in SE Kenya, running SE from W of Kitui to N of Manyani, falling from 1300 to 450 m in altitude.

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